

Delightful 'Il Trovatore' Ends Week of Opera

Belle Udell, Making Her Debut, Captures Audience Singing Role of Leonore

By ALICE EVERSMAN.

The very successful week of grand opera at the National Theater by the San Carlo Co. ended last evening with a performance of Verdi's "Il Trovatore." This opera might be considered the most popular in the world, for its melodies have formed the basis of many a pupil's first effort at musical expression on the piano, and have been heard throughout the years in every conceivable manner of performance. That its appeal has not diminished with time is attested by the large audience which filled the theater and the very genuine applause which punctuated each act where the beloved numbers appeared.

The mounting of the opera held the same feeling of dignity that has characterized all the stagings of this company. There is nothing makeshift or haphazard about these performances and it has been a revelation to find such rich effects and such polish in presentation in a company which, because of the travel involved, might be absolved from some defects. But Fortune Giallo, managing director and man of vision, has high ideals of what opera should be and has worked toward attaining them. His spirit is felt in the co-operation of his cast, each one taking his duties seriously and striving for artistic perfection.

In the best opera houses of the world, the busy chorus, singing every performance, will be found to relax occasionally but not in the San Carlo organization. Here, even when singing two operas a day, it gives of its best and part of that best is the acting. The members of the chorus carry out the story with appropriate action, some of it registering with telling effect. The ballet is excellent, young, agile and well trained. The premiere danseuse, Lydia Arlova, and the premiere danseur, Lucien Pradeaux, are artists of the first water and their dancing will be remembered with genuine pleasure. These very necessary component parts of opera presentation have been watched with the same care as has been given the orchestra, where Maestro Peroni, the director, shines supreme.

Last evening's performance saw the first appearance on any stage of young Belle Udell. Singing the role of Leonore, she was so poised in her deportment that it seemed incredible that she had had no previous stage experience. She makes an attractive figure and sings well and with assurance. Her voice is a large one with fine high notes and if the quality was not as smooth and rounded in the middle register, it undoubtedly will become so with more practice in singing in the theater.

A strong, vivid portrayal of the fiery Azucena, was given by Elen La Mance, who secured a decided success. She has a powerful voice which at times is inclined to shrillness in the higher register under the emotion of the moment, but which otherwise is of fine quality. Her acting was fervent throughout. The two principal male roles, that of Manrico and Count di Luna, were splendidly sung by Sydney Raynor and Mostyn Thomas. These artists are outstanding. Mr. Raynor having an unusually ringing and free tenor and Mr. Thomas' baritone being resonant and full. Their chief arias were received with volumes of applause.

The several lesser characters in the opera also were well cast, Inez rando by Richard Wentworth, Ruiz by Francesco Curci and a gypsy by being sung by Flora Shennan, Fausto Bozza.

"Faust" Is Presented.
In yesterday afternoon's performance of Faust first honors must go to Rolf Gerard, who sang the title role. He made the part different, first by being a very personable Faust, slim and handsome, and by singing it excellently. He has an easy and convincing way of acting that is intriguing, and he is so thoroughly one with the character he portrays as to make it seem entirely natural. It is particularly recompensing to see a singer who gives the illusion of the role he is taking and who can embellish it with a vocal interpretation in keeping with it.

Two New Comets Will Be Visible In South Africa
By the Associated Press.
CAPETOWN, Union of South Africa, Jan. 25.—A team of newly-discovered comets, making the first recorded dual appearance of its kind in the history of astronomy, will be visible to the unaided eyes of watchers in South Africa during the next week.

Latest found of the pair is the Dekock planet, named for the amateur astronomer who discovered it. Its orbit is believed to be about 25,000,000 miles from the earth. The other heavenly body is the Cunningham comet discovered at the Harvard University observatory last October. The Cunningham is said to be 35,000,000 miles away. The Cunningham comet became barely visible to the naked eye in the United States between Christmas and early January.

Comics and Classics Compete For Pupils' Reader Interest

Comic page characters are competing successfully with the classics for the reader interest of the District's school children. This was revealed yesterday at George Washington University as a panel of District and nearby school officials discussed the role of reading in child development. It formed part of a conference of school administrators and supervisors under the auspices of the university school of education.

One member of the group declared there are regular circulating libraries of books of comics among children and insisted it was not only the dramatic appeal, but the price as well. "You can't get books that we would like to have them read for a quarter," she said. Some thought the appeal of the comic strips should be analyzed

with it. This Mr. Gerard did, and he created the foundation on which the rest of the excellency of the presentation rested.

The opera was as carefully staged as have been the others during this week's engagement, which means that details were thought of and also brightness of staging. The Marguerite was Leola Turner, whose light, agreeable voice is well suited to the music. The "Jewel Song" in the garden scene and her duets with Mr. Gerard were excellently carried out, and the two artists acted with freedom and feeling. The fine singing of Mr. Gerard of the aria in this scene, "Salut, demeure chaste et pure," was one of the high spots of the performance.

Harold Kravitt's Mephistopheles is a sinister and treacherous one, so stressed in every scene. The part of Valentin was taken by Clifford Swift, whose rich baritone voice won a special tribute of applause at the end of his denunciation of Marguerite and his death scene. Flora Shennan made much of the role of Martha, with nice bits of comedy when playing opposite Mr. Kravitt. Charlotte Bruno as Siebel and Fausto Bozza as Wagner completed the cast.

The chorus sang with enthusiasm and the "Soldiers' Chorus" was given with spirit that immediately received recognition from the audience.

Concert Features Brahms

Pro Arte String Musicians Give Performance

By ELENA DE SAYN.

Three Brahms' works, in the cycle of 24 of his compositions for chamber music to be performed at the Library of Congress by the Pro Arte String Quartet of the University of Wisconsin, were presented yesterday afternoon under the auspices of the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Foundation by Antonio Brosa, violinist, and C. Warwick Evans, cellist, both members of the Pro Arte organization, assisted by Gunnar Johansen, pianist. The numbers were "Sonata in G major op. 78" for violin and piano, "Sonata in E minor op. 38" for cello and piano, and "Trio in B minor op. 8."

It was the latter that fully disclosed the artistic possibilities of this group and gave the greatest pleasure. An early work, revised by the composer 35 years after its original draft, it shows a less assured and a less complex Brahms than the two first works on the program and it was that genial and romantic side of his character and music that the artists emphasized with an excellent balance of tone.

"Scherzo" Praised.
Mr. Johansen took every opportunity to project his personality and to show his finished technique and crispness of touch. The "Scherzo" was quite irresistible for its gaiety and style, the "Allegro con brio" and the final "Allegro" were played with spirit and dash. Less satisfying was the "Adagio" movement in which Mr. Johansen's lack of a sustained tone and weakness of the left hand were uppermost.

These two factors combined with an inadequacy of a polyphonic treatment of the piano score were a disturbing element in his performance of the two sonatas. In these he treated the piano part as a mere accompaniment and not as a duet. Effacing himself and subservient to the string instruments to a point of insignificance, he failed to give them the necessary support to make their reading interesting. It is possible that the closed lid of the piano had something to do with the colorlessness of his performance of the first two numbers. Opened for the last, it lent the necessary brilliancy to his playing.

Purity of Tone Is Liked.
Mr. Brosa's is not powerful but sweet, the purity of his intonation adds to its smoothness and texture. His presentation of the violin sonata was musically, with stress placed upon its cantabile passages. Were it not for a certain tightness in the upper registers of his instrument, his playing would have had more uniformity. Mr. Evans had his measure of success in the cello sonata in which he showed an insight into its musical values. The audience was large and appreciative. There will be three concerts next week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Six Persons Are Injured In Shanghai Terrorism

By the Associated Press.
SHANGHAI, Jan. 25.—Gangs roving the International Settlement and the French Concession threw hand grenades into several dance halls and barrooms tonight, and police said six persons were injured. The grenadier-terrorists were not identified.

with a view to finding literature which has the same appeal. "Obviously the comic strips are filling a place which we do not fill in school," she emphasized. Others expressed the opinion that brighter children did not read the comics unduly, that it was the poorer pupils who were really "reading" pictures and that the effort should be made to find and improve the difficulties of the poorer readers. "I've known a lot of bright children who read the comics," declared Mrs. L. C. Walker, supervisor of elementary instruction in the District, objecting to the point that only poorer readers do much of that type reading. "They prefer tales of adventure when men were men and did things," said a teacher from the floor. "Our books should portray history in this way to encourage the reading."



AT DINNER FOR RAMSPECK—Seated at the head table at a dinner given at the Kennedy-Warren last night for Chairman Ramspeck of the House Civil Service Committee were (left to right) Oliver C. Short, president of the Society for Personnel Administration, which sponsored the affair; Mrs. Ramspeck, Dr. Frederick Davenport, chairman of the Council of Personnel Administration; Harry B. Mitchell, president of the Civil Service Commission, and Representative Ramspeck.

Silence on Utility Board Vacancy Persists

Whatever plans the President may have for the filling of a vacancy on the District Public Utilities Commission remained a mystery yesterday. The vacancy has existed for about three months since the appointment of Richmond B. Keach.

former member, as District corporation counsel.

No official word has come from the White House as to the President's wishes, although some time ago high District and Federal officials recommended the appointment of Himman D. Folsom, a veteran in the public utility regulation field, who meets the three-year District residence requirement.

Mr. Folsom, who is described as "available" but not as a "candidate"

for the \$7,500 post, recently served as special counsel to the Public Utilities Commission for about three years. His appointment has been recommended by the Commissioners, Corporation Counsel Keach and Utility Commissioners Riley E. Egan and David McCoach, the engineer commissioner, among others.

Others who have been suggested for the post include Col. Luther R. Maddox and Henry L. Colman, both of whom have civic group support.

Ramspeck Honored For Fight to Extend Merit System

Representative Is Guest Of Personnel Society At Dinner Dance

Personnel officers of the Federal Government turned out in full force at the Kennedy-Warren last night to honor Chairman Ramspeck of the House Civil Service Committee, whose civil service extension measure recently became law after a long congressional battle.

After receiving the praise of a long list of speakers, Representative Ramspeck was presented with a scroll making him an honorary member of the Society for Personnel Administration, which sponsored a dinner-dance in the Georgian's honor.

In accepting, Representative Ramspeck said it was hoped that the next few years would bring an improvement in the operation of the civil service system. He expressed the conviction that when France's history is finally written it will be learned that failure of the French civil government had a lot to do with the collapse. He said the civil branch of this Government must be enabled to carry out its responsibilities, even as the military branch.

Among those having a word of praise for Representative Ramspeck was Senator Mead of New York, who sponsored a counterpart of the Ramspeck legislation in the Senate. Harry B. Mitchell, president of the Civil Service Commission, and Mrs. Lucille Foster McMillin, a member of the commission, joined



GOLDEN WEDDING—Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Goldsmith, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Tuesday. A public reception in their honor will be held February 9 at the Jewish Community Center—Underwood & Underwood Photo.

In the commendations of the efforts of Representative Ramspeck on behalf of the merit system.

Other speakers included Dr. Fred Davenport, chairman of the Council of Personnel Administration; Samuel Arday of the National Civil Service Reform League; Murray Latimer, chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board; Malcolm Kerlin, administrative assistant, Commerce Department; and Oliver C. Short, personnel director of the Commerce Department, who presided as toastmaster.

Goodloe Expenses \$595

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 25 (AP)—Col. Henry B. Goodloe, Albemarle attorney, who was the Republican candidate for Congress in the 8th district, reported today that his campaign expenses amounted to \$595.

D.C. Would Mark Tires Rejected At Inspection

A method to foil a trick which has enabled scores of motorists to evade the District's motor vehicle inspection law has finally been found, it was disclosed yesterday. For the last year and a half, since compulsory motor vehicle inspection has been in effect here, some unscrupulous motorists have rented new tires for 50 cents a day to replace old ones which had been rejected by inspectors.

Then, after appearing at the stations with the new tires and obtaining an "approved" sticker on their cars, the drivers would remount the old tires and take the good ones back to the stores where they were obtained.

If a proposed regulation, recommended by the Traffic Advisory Council, is approved by the Commissioners, District motor vehicle inspectors would have the power to brand any rejected tire, J. Earl Steinhauer, supervising inspector, said. This would enable police to arrest any motorist driving a car with branded tires on a charge of operating an automobile in unsafe mechanical condition. Inspectors at the two District stations said the trick had been played at least 60 times that they knew of.

Australians Parade To Celebrate Victory

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan. 25.—Five thousand soldiers of the Australian imperial force paraded through the city's streets today in celebration of the part Australians played in the capture of Bardia and Tobruk in the fighting in Libya.

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2-Pc. Kroehler Frieze Living Room Suite	\$169.95	\$129.67
2-Pc. Kroehler Mohair Living Room Suite	\$159.95	\$119.95
3-Pc. Mohair Living Room Suite	\$129.95	\$99.87

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3-Pc. Maple-Finish Bedroom Suite	\$49.95	\$29.40
4-Pc. Modern Bedroom suite with Chest-robe	\$279.95	\$198.89
5-Pc. Modern Bedroom Suite	\$349.50	\$239.40
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4-Pc. Modern Bedroom Suite	\$159.95	\$119.95

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